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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

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UNITED STATES.

THE CHOLERA SITUATION.

The cholera situation remains practically unchanged. The disease continues to prevail undiminished in Italy. It is present at Marseille, France, and in Turkey in Europe and Asia. In Russia an increasing number of cases are being reported.

Surg. Eager, who has been at Palermo, has been directed to leave Acting Asst. Surg. Ignazio di Bartolo in charge at that port and proceed to Marseille, France, where he has been detailed by order of the President for duty in the office of the American consul in connection with the enforcement of the Quarantine Regulations of the Treasury Department.

Although the infected area in Europe has increased, no case of cholera has arrived at a port in the United States since the one reported at New York Quarantine August 18. Three cholera carriers were detected on arrival at New York Quarantine in August—one each on the 11th, 17th, and 18th. Since this last date none has been reported.

NEW YORK.

Passed Asst. Surg. von Ezdorf reports the arrival of the steamship *Duca D'Aosta* August 30 from Genoa and Naples; the steamship *Columbia* August 31 from Trieste, Patras, and Oran; the steamship *Sant Anna* August 31 from Marseille, Naples, and Palermo; and the steamship *Mariha Washington* September 4 from Trieste, Patras, Palermo, and Algiers. Bacteriological examination of passengers and crews showed the absence of cases of cholera and of cholera carriers.

THE PRESENCE OF *LAMBLIA DUODENALIS* IN MAN IN NORTH CAROLINA AND THE RECOGNITION OF AMEBÆ IN FECES SEVERAL DAYS OLD.

(By Ch. Wardell Stiles, Professor of Zoology, Hygienic Laboratory, United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.)

The flagellate parasite known as *Lambliia duodenalis* or *Lambliia intestinalis* seems to be reported very rarely in American literature. This short note is simply intended to call attention to the fact that

it is by no means so rare in the United States as might be supposed. In microscopic examination of fecal material in eastern North Carolina this summer I have found *Lamblia* in a number of instances. Exact records have not been kept, as in the present work high power magnification is used on only a portion of the specimens. *Lamblia* has, however, been seen sufficiently frequently to justify the statement that in this particular locality the parasite is common.

While the importance of *Lamblia* infection is not to be compared with that of *Entamoeba histolytica*, it would be well to hold it in mind in cases of diarrhea of obscure origin. The infection may be recognized in the fresh stools by finding either the motile stage or an encysted stage.

As in the case of infection with *Entamoeba coli*, a perfectly fresh stool is not necessary for diagnosis of *Lamblia*, as anyone who becomes familiar with the encysted stages of these parasites can make the determination on a stool several days old with just as much certainty as he can upon one which is fresh and warm. In fact, for *E. coli* I not infrequently prefer to control determinations made on the fresh warm stool by keeping the feces for a few days and finding the encysted form in its various stages of development.

To become familiar with the various stages, it is sufficient to place in a Petri dish a fresh stool showing infection, to keep the material at room temperature, and to examine it day by day. This method will be found useful when the observer is in doubt as to whether he has *E. histolytica* or *E. coli* before him, and if generally adopted it would doubtless save many an error of mistaking *E. coli* for *E. histolytica*, hence of erroneously diagnosing amebic dysentery when in reality the infection is one of *E. coli*. Staining is not necessary in order to recognize the cyst.

When fresh stools are kept at room temperature for several days, motile amebæ may occasionally be found, but thus far I have not found motile amebæ in such old stools which I have felt justified in calling either *E. coli* or *E. histolytica*.

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO PUBLIC HYGIENE.

[Adopted since Jan. 1, 1910.]

CHELSEA, MASS.

CESSPOOLS AND VAULTS.

RULE 49. Every vault or cesspool shall be at least 2 feet distant from the line of every adjoining lot, street, lane, passageway, or public place; shall be water tight, and so suited and constructed as to exclude all surface drainage, and its contents shall never be within 18 inches of the surface of the ground and above the vault. And whenever any privy or vault shall become offensive, the same shall be cleaned; and in case the condition or construction of any vault or privy shall be different from the requirements of this section, the board of health may cause the same to be cleansed, repaired, amended, altered, or removed, and shall charge all the expenses incurred in so doing to the owner or party occupying the estate in which such privy or vault may be; provided, they shall first give such owner or party occupying, a legal notice, and allow the space of at least 48 hours for such owner or occupant to comply with such notice.